Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Censky, E.J. 1998. *Ameiva plei.*

Ameiva plei Duméril and Bibron

Ameiva plei Duméril and Bibron 1839:114. Type locality, "Martinique" (probably St. Barthélemy). Lectotype, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN) 4163, adult female, date of collection unknown, collected by Plée (not examined by author).

Ameiva scutata Gray 1845:19. Type locality, unknown. Holotype, British Museum of Natural History (BMNH) 1946.8.30.34, locality, date of collection, and collector unknown (not examined by author).

Ameiva analifera Cope 1869 (1871):158. Type locality, "St. Martins, West Indies." Lectotype, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia (ANSP) 9080, adult female, collected "prior to 1870" by R.E. Van Rijgersma (not examined by author).

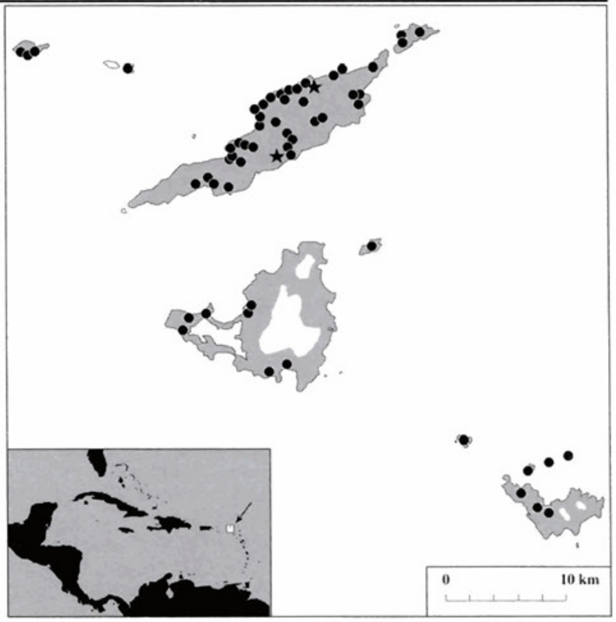
Ameiva pleii: Boulenger 1885:354. Emendation.

Ameiva garmani Barbour 1914:312. Type locality, "Anguilla." Holotype, Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) 6141, adult female, date of collection unknown, collected by F. Lagois (not examined by author).

Ameiva nevisana Schmidt 1920:1. Type locality, "Nevis Island, British West Indies." Holotype, American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) 1635, adult male, "probably collected before 1890," collector unknown (not examined by author).

Ameiva pleeii: Underwood 1962:88. Emendation.

Ameiva pleei: Baskin and Williams 1966:154. *Lapsus*.



MAP. Distribution of *Ameiva plei*. Dots indicate known locality records. Stars mark fossil sites. Type localities are too imprecise to plot.

• CONTENT. Two subspecies, *plei* and *analifera*, are currently recognized.

• DEFINITION. *Ameiva plei* is a large member of the genus *Ameiva* (maximum SVL of males = 181 mm, of females = 139 mm; Censky and Paulson 1992). Granular scales around midbody number 135–179 (mean = 159.8 ± 0.7), ventral scales range between 29–36 (mean = 31.9 ± 0.08), fourth toe subdigital lamellae number 29–41 (mean = 34.1 ± 0.12), fifteenth caudal verticil number 27–38 (mean = 30.5 ± 0.11), and number of femoral pores (both legs) range between 37–56 (45.5 ± 0.18)(these meristic counts include both subspecies, Censky and Paulson 1992).

Color and patterning exhibit an ontogenetic change in this species. Young individuals are brown with 2–7 light stripes (some may be broken) which fade as individuals grow. Adults have a background color that is gray-brown to gray-green (sometimes with a greenish-blue tinge); white spots on the flanks extend onto the back posteriorly, sometime coalescing to form vertical white bars. Hind limbs have white spots and forearms may or may not have white to bluish-white spots. Ventral scales are bluish-white to white and patternless.

• DIAGNOSIS. *Ameiva plei* occurs on the Anguilla Bank with *Ameiva corax* and can be readily distinguished from it by the patternless, melanistic coloring of *A. corax* and by a greater number of granules (127–159, mean 144.0 ± 1.01 in *A. corax*) and fewer femoral pores (58–72, mean 62.1 ± 0.40 in *A. corax*)(Censky and Paulson 1992). *Ameiva plei* can be distinguished from *Ameiva* on surrounding banks of islands as following: *A. exsul* (Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands) has more granules (167–195, mean 179.3 ± 4.30), fewer femoral pores (31–39, mean 33.4 ± 1.06), and dark markings on the flanks; *A. erythrocephala* (Antigua Bank) has more granules (187–214, mean 204.3 ± 3.54), more femoral pores (62–72, mean 68.3 ± 1.25), and a dorsal ground color that is olive green tinged with russet, rosy flanks, and a head that is reddish olive. *Ameiva griswoldi* (St. Kitts Bank) is meristically similar to *A. plei* but can be distinguished on the basis of color; *A. griswoldi* has a ground color of brown to reddish-brown with transverse, pale green to buff blotches and a chest that is black with an irregular border.

• DESCRIPTIONS. The most complete description of the species is found in Censky and Paulson (1992). Additional descriptions include the original description by Duméril and Bibron (1839) and others with varying degrees of detail by Cope (1862), Boulenger (1885), Garman (1887), Barbour and Noble (1915), Underwood (1962), Baskin and Williams (1966), and Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. A color photograph appears in Powell et al. (1996).

• DISTRIBUTION. *Ameiva plei* is endemic to the Anguilla Bank where it occurs on the islands of Anguilla, Dog Island, Scilly Cay, Scrub Island, Upper (east) Prickley Pear, St. Barthélemy, Ile Fourchue, Ile Chevreau, Ile Toc Vers, Ile Frégate,



FIGURE. *Ameiva plei plei* from Katouche Bay, Anguilla: adult female (above), juvenile (below). Photographs by the author.

St. Martin/Maarten, and Tintamarre. This species occupies coastal as well as inland habitats, from beaches to xeric woodlands. It occurs in areas with sandy and rocky soils and often is seen around human habitation. The range was illustrated by Schwartz and Henderson (1991) and Censky and Paulson (1992).

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** Fossils have been recorded from non-cultural sites (Center and Fountain caves; Pregill et al. 1994) and possibly a cultural site (Fountain Cave; Watters 1991) on Anguilla.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** Baskin and Williams (1966) included this species in a re-evaluation and zoogeographical study of the Lesser Antillean *Ameiva*. It was also included in studies examining the evolutionary relationships among teiids using tongue structure (Presch 1971), osteological characters (Presch 1974a), dentition (Presch 1974b), and functional morphology (MacLean 1974). Censky (1995a) described reproduction in two populations. Censky (1995b, 1996, 1997) examined the evolution of sexual size dimorphism, mating strategy, female choice, and reproductive success. Censky (1996) also looked at growth rates, competition, and diet. McLaughlin and Roughgarden (1989) reported predation by *Falco sparverius*.

The species was included in several lists, checklists, keys, and faunal accounts: Gray (1845), Boulenger (1885), Barbour (1914, 1923, 1930, 1935, 1937), Barbour and Loveridge (1929), Parker (1933), Cochran (1934), Dunn (1934), Underwood (1962), Schwartz and Thomas (1975), MacLean et al. (1977), Schwartz and Henderson (1985, 1988), Brygoo (1989), Biknevicius et al. (1993), Roughgarden (1995, with some erroneous information), Powell et al. (1996), and Censky and Kaiser (1998).

• **NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY.** *Ameiva scutata* was placed in the synonymy of *A. plei* by Boulenger (1885), *A. analifera* by Barbour and Noble (1915), and *A. nevisana* by Baskin and Williams (1966). Censky and Paulson (1992) recognized two subspecies and described the Little Scrub population as a separate species (*A. corax).*

• **REMARKS.** Duméril and Bibron (1839) cited the type locality for *Ameiva plei* as "Martinique and St. Dominigue." Censky and Paulson (1992) reviewed the considrable confusion about Plée's collecting localities. They retained the emended type locality ("probably St. Barthélemy") of Barbour and Noble (1915). Censky and Paulson (1992) designated MNHN 4163 as the lectotype of *A. plei* and MNHN 1784 and 2648 as paralectotypes. Barbour and Noble (1915) mistakenly suggested that MCZ 4357 was one of the syntypes of *A. plei* and Cochran (1941) incorrectly stated that two of the three syntypes were from Puerto Rico. In addition, numerous authors (Barbour 1930, 1937; Grant 1932) have erroneously listed *Ameiva exsul* from Anguilla.

Frank and Ramus (1995) proposed for "*A. pleei* [*sic*]" the common name, Caribbean Ameiva, which is too vague to be meaningful.

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The specific epithet, *plei*, is a patronym honoring Plée, who collected the type specimens. The etymology for the name *analifera* is unknown.

1. *Ameiva plei plei* Duméril and Bibron

Ameiva plei Duméril and Bibron 1839:114. See species synonymy.
Ameiva scutata Gray 1845:19. See species synonymy.
Ameiva analifera Cope 1869 (1871):158 (part). See species synonymy.
Ameiva pleii: Boulenger 1885:354. Emendation. See species synonymy.
Ameiva garmani Barbour 1914:312. See species synonymy.
Ameiva nevisana Schmidt 1920:1. See species synonymy.
Ameiva pleeii: Underwood 1962:88. Emendation. See species synonymy.
Ameiva pleei: Baskin and Williams 1966:154. Emendation. See species synonymy.
Ameiva plei plei Censky and Paulson 1992:181. First use of trinomial.

• **DEFINITION.** This subspecies of *Ameiva plei* is characterized by a combination of high number of dorsal granules at midbody (159.8 ± 0.68, 135–179), low femoral pore count (45.5 ± 0.18, 37–53), low number of subdigital lamellae on the fourth toe (34.2 ± 0.14, 29–38), low number of scales on the fifteenth caudal verticil (30.6 ± 0.11, 27–36), and low number of transverse rows of enlarged scales (31.9 ± 0.09, 29–36). This subspecies is large (males to 181 mm, females to 139 mm SVL), although maximum size varies from island to island. Some populations have two dark longitudinal stripes on the ventral side of the tail (Censky and Paulson 1992).

2. *Ameiva plei analifera* Cope

Ameiva analifera Cope 1869 (1871):158 (part). Type locality, "St. Martins, West Indies." Lectotype, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia (ANSP) 9080, specimen collected by Dr. R.E. Van Rijgersma (not examined by author). See Comment.
Ameiva pleii: Barbour and Noble 1915:445 (part).
Ameiva plei analifera Censky and Paulson 1992:186. First use of trinomial.

• **DEFINITION.** This moderately sized subspecies (males to 139 mm, females to 107 mm SVL) is characterized by a combination of high number of granules at midbody (160.3 ± 0.93, 145–178), low number of femoral pores (45.9 ± 0.39, 41–56), moderate number of subdigital lamellae (36.6 ± 0.25, 32–41), moderate number of scales in the fifteenth caudal verticil (32.3 ± 0.22, 28–38), and moderate number of enlarged transverse ventral scales (32.5 ± 0.11, 31–35). Three to five vertical black bars or bands occur in the shoulder region (some not distinct) of adults, and subcaudal stripes are absent (Censky and Paulson 1992).

• **COMMENT.** Censky and Paulson (1992) designated the lectotype and several paralectotypes; however, their list differs from the ANSP listing of types for *Ameiva analifera* (Malnate 1971). Several specimens listed by Malnate (1971) were *A. erythrocephala* and one belonged to the subspecies *plei*.

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